

HF 4211 – Continuous Lead Emissions Monitoring Grant

About Gopher Resource

- Gopher Resource is Minnesota's only lead battery recycling plant.
- It is located in Eagan, directly next to residential neighborhoods.
- The facility processes up to 50,000 lead-acid batteries per day.

2025 Lead Emission Violations

- According to MPCA, Gopher Resource exceeded state and federal lead limits from January through March 2025.
- Residents were not notified until July, **six months after elevated levels began**.
- MPCA currently has two open investigations involving the facility: one related to these lead exceedances and another related to stormwater issues.

Why HF 4211 Is Needed

- The 2025 exceedances lasted three months without public notification.
- Without real-time data, families living near the plant had no way to take precautions.
- HF 4211 funds a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) to measure lead levels in real time.

How Continuous Monitoring Helps

- A CEMS provides continuous, real-time readings of lead emissions.
- It allows MPCA to respond quickly when levels rise.
- It gives nearby residents timely information so they can take steps to protect themselves and their families.
- Over the past year, residents have worked closely with MPCA, the City of Eagan, Dakota County, and MDH to identify solutions. Continuous monitoring is the most effective tool available.

Urgency of This Request

- Without real-time monitoring, neither regulators nor residents will know when lead levels are elevated.
- HF 4211 is an urgent step to ensure transparency, accountability, and public health protection for the surrounding neighborhoods.